UPDATE

Boycott called threat to pay of Hispanics

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Group's leaders irked that gays didn't ask

By **Louis Aguilar**/Gazette Telegraph

A leading Latino civil rights group has vowed to fight the Amendment 2-inspired boycott of Colorado because it threatens the income of many Hispanics.

The move announced by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) in Colorado Springs on Friday reflects a growing counterattack on the idea of economically punishing the state because of Amendment 2.

Velez: "No one takes us for granted."

The amendment bars laws that protect gays, lesbians and bisexuals from discrimination based on their sexual orientation. Since its Nov. 3 passage, Colorado has been under fire by supporters of gay rights. It's lost millions in canceled conventions and been labeled the "hate state" by some critics. Dozens of public officials outside the state and celebrities have called for a boycott of Colorado.

While the national president of the Hispanic group, Jose Velez, agreed the amendment was discriminatory, the boycott "could be too harmful for Latinos," he said. The boycott targets many industries — such as tourism and agriculture — where many Hispanics are employed, the group said.

Further, the league is miffed because it says Hispanics aren't being informed by the gay community on its plans to fight the amendment.

"They shouldn't have assumed we would support (the boycott) without hearing our opinion on something that affects many of us," Velez said. "No one takes us for granted."

The civil rights group is one of the largest and oldest Hispanic organizations in the nation, with about 150,000 members nationwide. Among other things, it lobbies politicians, and generally keeps tabs on social, educational and economic issues affecting Hispanics.

Velez vowed to use the group's clout to battle the boycott, and to lobby other major Hispanic organizations to do the same. The group will have its state chapters contact members

Pat Talbert sweeps snow from the sidewalk in front of her family's antique and estate-sale business on W opening Friday

Brunt of storm felt in

Snow creates few travel problems

Gazette Telegraph

Colorado Springs got off lucky when the latest snowstorm moved through the state.

Only 1 or 2 inches of snow fell on the Springs area Friday, compared to up to a foot in the central mountains.

Up to 4 inches could fall in the northern part of the city before the storm starts to break up late this morning, said a forecaster with the National Weather Service at Colorado Springs Municipal Airport.

The snow in the Pikes Peak region caused little trouble for drivers, with police reporting no major accidents and all roads remaining open.

While the snow should taper off this afternoon, the cold weather is expected to linger.

Today's high is expected to be between 15 and 20 degrees, the weather service said. The overnight low is expected to drop to 10 degrees with wind chills below zero.

The state's ski areas — which recently have suffered from spotty snow conditions — were gearing up for a busy weekend as snow continued to fall in the central and southern mountains late Friday.

Monarch Ski Area reported up to a foot of new snow Friday, with 4 more inches expected.

A spokeswoman at Breckenridge Ski Area said it had received about 3 inches of new snow. "But it's still coming down," she said about 5 p.m. Friday.

Steamboat Ski Area also re-

St. Mary's feeling growi

Enrollment jump spurs expansion plans

See BOYCOTT/B4